Catholic Theatre Conference

PRODUCTION CALENDAR

Vol. 8 February 1949 No. 5

ST. GENESIUS PLAYWRITING AWARDS

Directors of drama departments of all Minnesota Catholic Colleges, who were guests at a luncheon at the College of St. Catherine last November agreed to the proposal to institute an annual playwriting contest to promote better Catholic drama. The luncheon was held at the invitation of Miss Mabel Frey of St. Catherine College Department of Speech and Drama. Miss Frey is vice-chairman of the North-Central Region, supervising college activities.

College students in the region, which is comprised of the states of Minnesota, North and South Dakotas, have been directing their efforts along creative writing in play form. The deadline for entries is May 1st. The winners will be announced in October.

The first award in the amount of $50.00 is offered for a full-length play. The second is $20.00 for a one-act play. The committee hopes for possible production of the winning manuscripts by one of the member colleges.

All plays must be original, unpublished and hitherto unproduced. Subject matter and treatment must be consistent with Christian principles. Participation is not limited to students of member colleges but is restricted to colleges within the regions's three states. All rights, with the exception of initial production remain with the writer and all manuscripts will be returned. If, in the opinion of the judges, no play of sufficient merit is submitted, no awards will be made. Entries must be postmarked no later than May 1 and mailed to the Drama Dept., College of St. Catherine, St. Paul, Minn. in care of Miss Frey.

Judges will be the Directors of Drama of the Colleges of St. Benedict, St. Catherine, St. Scholastica, St. Teresa and

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NATIONAL CONVENTION

Plans for the Convention program are reaching the definite stage under the supervision of Co-chairmen, Jos. F. Rice and Emmet Lavery.

A full four days of very interesting speakers, panels, demonstrations, sightseeing trips, major productions and television presentations have been scheduled.

A meeting of the Executive Board will be held the evening preceding the opening of the convention. His Excellency J. Francis A. McIntyre, Archbishop of Los Angeles will preside during the High Mass the first morning. Rev. James Donohue, former President of the Conference, will deliver the sermon. Rev. Karl Schroeder, incumbent President, will preside as chairman for the Communion Breakfast and present the special guests.

Mr. Lavery will preside at the General Session when a Theatre Inventory will be held consisting of a review of the past twelve years and a preview of this year's convention. There will be a discussion of basic needs and basic trends in which all the delegates will be invited to participate.

Other sessions will concentrate on playwriting, children's theatre, production design, Radio and Television.

De Paul University will present a production of "Traitor's Gate", directed by Mr. David Itkin. Loyola

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WEST-CENTRAL REGIONAL MEETING

Sister Agnes Virginia of Bishop Hogan High School, Kansas City, Mo., and chairman of the Kansas City Unit planned two and one-half days full of activities for the West-Central Regional Meeting held Feb. 18, 19 and 20. An interesting blend of business and pleasure was arranged combining speakers and panels with a one-act play festival and the production of a full-length play.

The entire regional meeting was held under the auspices of His Excellency, Most Rev. Edwin V. O'Hara, D.D., Bishop of the Diocese of Kansas City, Mo. Edison Hall, Hotel President, Hotel Muehlebach, Rockhurst College auditorium and Gethsemane Retreat House were all utilized for panels, meetings, productions, dance, luncheon and closing business session.

Proceedings were opened with Holy Mass in Cathedral of Immaculate Conception with Most. Rev. Jos. M. Marling, C.PP.S., Auxiliary Bishop as the celebrant. Registration and sessions followed with the address of welcome given by Bishop Marling; introductory remarks by Sister Agnes Virginia, S.C.L.; Salutations on behalf of the Conference by President, Rev. Karl G. Schroeder and an address on the Conference by Rev. Robert A. Johnston, S.J., chairman of the West-Central Region.

A panel on Experimental Theatre followed with Sister Agnes Virginia as the chairman. Speakers were Dr. W. Campton Bell, head of the School of the Theatre, Denver University, whose subject was "Modes of Presentation of Plays". Mr. Alban F. Varnado, St. Louis University spoke concerning "Penthouse and Other Experimental Forms". The Radio and Television panel was charmenned by Rev. Jos. M. Freeman, S.J. Miss Catherine Fleming, St. Louis Univ. discussed "A Radio Workshop on the College Level"; Sister M. Xavier, BVM., Mt. Carmel Academy, Wichita spoke about "Conducting a High School Radio Workshop"; Rev. R. C. Williams, S.J., Creighton University closed the morning session with his subject "Television Drama."

Luncheon was followed by the One-Act Play Festival in which four high schools participated. These four had been chosen

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LaCROSSE PLAY FESTIVAL

Sister Marie Leon of Aquinas High School, LaCrosse, Wisc., as one of the Unit chairmen of the Central Region presided over a Play Festival held Feb. 19 for schools in the LaCrosse area.

Enthusiasm ran so high there were more entries than could be handled in a one day affair. In addition to those who participated there were four more who would have liked to do so.
Sister Marie Leon withdrew her own school to allow room for one more. Next year if enthusiasm is the same a two day Festival will be held.

The Critic-Judge was Doctor Toland from the State Teachers' College in La Crosse. Everyone agreed they learned a great deal from her comments.

Regional Chairman, Sister Angelita, was present as was Sister Leola. Messages of congratulation in the form of letters and telegrams were received from the Executive Board and other Regional chairmen.

The day's program opened with Holy Mass celebrated by Rev. J. Kundinger, who gave the welcoming address. The

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SPRINGFIELD PLAY FESTIVAL

The Central Region's Springfield unit held its High School Play Festival for Southern Illinois at Sacred Heart Academy. Marquette High School of Alton served as co-host. Sister M. Isabelle, O.P. is chairman of the unit; Mother M. Gregory, O.S.U. is director of dramatics at Marquette High. The Festival was held on Feb. 19 with 226 students, 28 sisters, 8 priests and approximately 30 lay adults in attendance. Sister Isabelle reports they could have had more but "we just didn't have room".

Father Joseph Murray, diocesan Supt. of Schools, and Father O'Connor, head of C.Y.O. were among those present. Eleven schools were represented in the attendance and seven plays were presented. Those participating were: Sacred Heart Academy, Springfield- "A Girl from Nowhere"; St. Mary Central High, Carlyle - "Personality and Your Job"; St. Teresa Academy, E. St. Louis- "The Death of a Swan"; Marquette High, Alton-- "So Wonderful in White"; Ursuline Academy, Springfield-- A scene from "Tish"; St. Paul High, Highland - "Hattie"; (Cont'd. on page 3)

SPRINGFIELD FESTIVAL (cont'd.)

Academy of Notre Dame, Belleville, "Riders to the Sea".

Critic Judges were Sister Mary Jeanelle, B.V.M. and Sister Mary Carmelia, B.V.M. of Mundelein College Dept. of Drama; Mr. John Doland, the Drama coach at Springfield Junior College; Miss Mary Elizabeth Lawless, former student of Goodman School of the Theatre and professional actress; and Mrs. Herbert Joys, Speech Dept. of Millikin Univ., Decatur, Ill.

Sister M. Isabelle reported that the Festival brought the Conference before the minds of people in her locality and she expects to obtain new members as a result. Directors present expressed interest in holding another Festival.

To Sister Isabelle and her assistants go the sincere thanks of the entire Conference for her efforts to supply an incentive to greater artistic achievement in Catholic drama among the high school groups.

FATHER NAGLE WRITES NEW PLAY

Rev. Urban Nagle, O.P. has completed his new play, CITY OF KINGS, which will be produced by the New York Blackfriars opening March 17. The production is scheduled to run through April 10.

The play tells the story of Blessed Martin de Porres, the Dominican lay brother. The locale is in Peru, once known as the City of the Kings. Two settings are employed - the humble home of Martin and his cell and apothecary shop in the Convent of the Most Holy Rosary. The script is written in two parts with three scenes in the first and four in the second. The cast numbers twenty-two.....4 females, 14 males; 1 little girl and 3 boys.

PLAYWRITING AWARDS (cont'd.)

St. Thomas; St. John's University and St. Mary's College. Miss Frey and all the directors are to be complimented for their efforts in the name of the Conference to stimulate an interest in better Catholic drama.

NATIONAL CONVENTION (cont'd.)

University of Los Angeles will present an original full length play, which at this writing is scheduled to be either "Black Prophet" or "The King's Servant".

Les Jongleurs of Immaculate Heart College will produce Mr. Lavery's play, "Song at the Scaffold". Telecasts of the productions will be presented in addition to their stage presentations. These new scripts alone should prove sufficient attractions to draw a large attendance to the convention.

Time will be devoted to divisional meetings on the college and university level, high school level and community theatre level. There will be regional meetings and the general business session to elect the new national officers and to take care of other Conference business.

A Studio sight-seeing trip and a visit to a Studio Sound Stage with noted Hollywood directors as speakers is a special attraction. Various stars are to be guests at the Communion Breakfast.

All in all, the co-chairmen have made every effort to procure top-flight speakers in their respective field and to offer as many attractive and informative sessions as can be crowded into four days. Many other speakers and personalities are being contacted but definite names cannot be announced at this time. A complete program will be mailed to every member just as soon as definite commitments can be obtained by the chairmen.

CATHOLIC UNIVERSITY

Catholic University has been celebrating its Tenth Anniversary Season. Plays produced this season are KING LEAR, THE BIRDS, and GRANDSTAND PLAY. The season will include one more production plus the annual musical comedy in the Catholic U. tradition. Production dates include March 25 - April 9; musical comedy May 6 - 21.

WEST-CENTRAL MEETING (Cont'd.)

as outstanding in four festivals held previously within the West-Central Region.

Flennon High, Kansas City, Mo. presented "The Old Lady Shows Her Medals"; Redemptorist High of the same city, produced "The Summons of Sariel"; Mt. St. Scholastica Academy of Atchison, Kansas - "Joint Owners in Spain" and St. Mary's Academy, Xavier, Kansas - "The Corn Husk Doll".

The evening was devoted to a production of "The Taming of the Shrew" by the Rockhurst College Dramasquers, directed by C. Bernard Gilford.

Saturday morning opened with a Panel Discussion on Recommended Plays with Sister M. Jovita of Ward High as chairman. Speakers were Sister M. Charitas, Holy Angels Academy, Minn., Miss Maria Theresa Fetters, Southeast High and Bro. James, St. Mary College, Winona. This high school panel was followed by one for College, CYC groups and Community theatres; speakers were Sister M. Camilla, St. Mary College, Xavier; Mrs. E. Bujarski, Sacred Heart College, Wichita and Rev. Karl Schroeder, Loras College. The chairman was Mr. C. Bernard Gilford.

Spiritual Directors held a meeting while a session met on Corrective Speech. Chairman-Sister Rose Edward, Redemptorist High; speakers-Mrs. M. L. Rush, St. Louis Univ. on "Speech Disorders encountered by the classroom teacher" and Sister Agatha Joseph, St. Jos. Institute for the Deaf, University City, Mo. on "Helping the Handicapped Children".

Community Workshop was presided over by Mrs. P. Rauch. Mr. Charles Costello, St. Ambrose College, Davenport spoke concerning "Formation of a Community Theatre"; Miss B. M. Mullins, Fontbonne College, St. Louis on "Community Theatre in Action"; and Rev. G. N. Glynn, St. Louis - "Benefit of Catholic Community Theatre to the Actor and to the Community".

Choral Speaking panel was presided over by Sister M. Walter, St. Aloysius Academy, who presented Dr. Louise Abney, Kansas City Jr. College speaking on "Value and Technique of Choral Speaking"; and Sister M. Charitas - "Use of Choral Speaking in Drama".

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LaCROSSE FESTIVAL (Cont'd.)

morning session began with remarks by Regional Chairman, Sister M. Angelita. Four one act plays followed with an intermission for lunch, after which four more plays were presented. Comments by the Critic-Judge, Dr. Marie Park Toland, were given after each play. Most. Rev. John P. Treacy, S.T.D., Bishop of La Crosse presented the medals. A social hour followed in the gym.

One acts presented were: "No Greater Love", St. Mary's Springs Academy, Fond du Lac; "The Road to Connaught", Sacred Heart High School, Lima; "Andante" by McDonnell Memorial High, Chippewa Falls; "The Case of the Weird Sisters", Edgewood High; Madison; "The Bishop's Candlesticks, Campion Jesuit High School; "Gray Bread" - St. Mary's Academy, Prairie du Chien; "The Ugly Duckling" - Saint Patrick's High, Eau Claire; and "Alice's Blue Gown" - St. Joseph Academy in Stevens Point.

Sister Marie Leon reported "Now that the district has a start we hope to work drama up to a higher standard." The Conference is truly appreciative of Sister's work and wishes her well in future undertakings.

WEST-CENTRAL MEETING (Cont'd.)

Toastmaster for the Luncheon was Rev. J. C. Ruysser, director of Kansas City CYC; guest speaker was Most Rev. Joseph M. Marling, C.PP.S., Auxiliary Bishop.

The second section of the one act play festival was held Sat. afternoon. Mt. Carmel Academy, Wichita presented "Jeanne d'Arc"; Ursuline Academy, Arcadia "The Gloomy Ones" and Christian Brothers High, St. Louis - "Submerged".

The evening was devoted to a meeting on Community Theatre followed by a Dance. Sunday morning Holy Mass was celebrated at the Retreat House followed by the business meeting for Conference members.

Special thanks go to Mr. Gilford of Rockhurst College and his Dramasquers for their seven benefit performances of "The Shrew" to help finance the regional meeting. And very special thanks to Sister Agnes Virginia and all her many helpers whose enthusiasm for Catholic theatre made such an extensive program possible. The West-Central Region is truly active. Father Johnston, Regional Chairman, may well be proud of it.

IDEAS

---Miss Agnes Loughlin, director of College Misericordia production of "Lady of Fatima", used one of the girls to represent Holy Mother; the Church acting as Narrator telling the story of Fatima to two children, who symbolized the Faithful of the world.

---Sister Marie Leon, director of Aquinas High School, LaCrosse production of "Lady of Fatima" used the character of "Domingos" in the prescene talking to two girls "Nancy and Joan". Sister also introduced a Fiesta scene complete with ten dancers. The program, a turquoise paper with printing and pictorial cover in dark blue, was unusual and pleasing to the eye. The cover shows Our Lady appearing to the three youngsters.

---Miss Louise Walsh, director at Marylhurst College, Oregon used the Conference mat of St. Genesius to reproduce the patron saint on ribbons for her students to wear to their Players Drama Banquet.

WRITERS' THEATRE FOR TELEVISION

An item in the Jan. 13 B. Gross column in the N.Y. News tells of some of the motion picture industry's best known writers organizing the Co-operative Writers' Theatre for Television. With Mr. Emmet Lavery as president they are negotiating with the major networks for exclusive video rights to their stories.

LUTE SONG

The words and music for seven songs from LUTE SONG are available from Capitol Songs, Inc., RKO Building, Radio City, New York 20, N.Y. The music was composed by Raymond Scott; the lyrics written by Bernard Hanighen. These are professional copies protected by copyright with all rights reserved.

The numbers are: "Mountain High, Valley Low"; "Bitter Harvest"; "The Lute Song"; "See the Monkey"; "Willow Tree"; "Vision Song" and "Where You Are".

Permission to produce LUTE SONG must be obtained from Mr. Koppelmann of Brandt & Brandt, 101 Park Avenue, New York City. Royalty - $25.00 per performance. Decca Company has an album of Raymond Scott's arrangements.

NEWS ITEMS FROM CHICAGO

Academy of Our Lady (Longwood) brought back a Superior rating for its performance of "Woman in the Freight Car" at the Chicago Play Festival in late November. Two girls of the cast of four received both gold medals and scholarships. Gold medals represented superior work in acting while scholarships represented superior work in acting plus scholastic achievement. Longwood seniors are now busily engaged in rehearsing for the production of "Lute Song", which will be the first presentation in Chicago. Several of the students will appear in early February over station WGES in presentation of "Summons of Sariel", which has been revised for radio by the director. "Far, Far Away" is being presented on February 11th.

Providence Students production, "All Night Service" at the Chicago Play Festival merited a Superior rating. Of its cast of eight girls, three received gold medals, two received silver ones and two received bronze ones. Two of the gold medalists received scholarships. Providence appeared in a half-hour broadcast of "When the Whirlwind Blows" over Station WGES in Chicago in late December. The students are now preparing for their Senior play production of "Career Angel".

Plans for the annual Poetry Festival in May are being arranged by the Board of the Chicago Play Festival. The interest in poetry displayed at the last year's Festival has indicated a desire to make this a yearly event. Verse Choirs and individual readers will participate.

Director at the above mentioned schools is Miss Therese Marie Cuny.

WICHITA NEWS ITEMS

Sacred Heart Academy is rehearsing "Brief Music" as their senior class play. The Dramasquers of Sacred Heart College are launching their annual spring festival. The Committee for Catholic Action Theatre is spading the groundwork for a Workshop to be held in late summer for leaders in parish drama groups throughout the diocese. The University Players completed a successful run of "Noah's Ark". Productions are under the direction of Mrs. Elvira Bujarski.

CROSS COUNTRY CIRCUIT

Canada, Hamilton, Ont. - Cathedral High School - ARSENIC AND OLD LACE.
Canada, Kingston - Notre Dame Convent - one act play in regional festival under the direction of Queen's University Drama Guild.
Conn., West Hartford - St. Joseph College Feb. 18 and 19 - annual Shakespearean production - THE COMEDY OF ERRORS - director Sister Ancilla used Arena staging with some modifications.
Conn., Putnam Catholic Academy - THE YOUNG GIRL - Feb. 27.
Florida, Miami - Gesu Drama Guild - TEN LITTLE INDIANS - Feb. 22-24.
Iowa, Davenport - St. Ambrose College VICTORIA REGINA.
Iowa, Dubuque, - Clarke College - Feb. 13 Drama Dept. presented Jane Ellen Mitchell in senior recital...three scene monologue WHOM DOST THOU SEEK, an interpretation of the life of Mary Magdalene.
Iowa, Dubuque - Loras College - Feb. 20 and 21 - THE WINSLOW BOY, directed by Father Karl Schroeder.
Kansas, Atchison - Mount St. Scholastica Academy - end of Feb. - Operetta, THE FOREST PRINCE.
Mass., Boston College - Feb. 24, 25, 26 Felix Doherty's new play, THE KING'S SERVANT staged by Rev. John L. Bonn, S.J.
Mass., Boston Catholic Theatre - Jan. 31 and Feb. 1-DARK VICTORY. Also THE KINGDOM OF THE BLIND - Feb. 7 and 8.
Mich., Detroit Catholic Theatre - LADY OF FATIMA every weekend two performances in parishes.
Mich., Detroit - Nativity High School - Feb. 24 - 28 LADY OF FATIMA with modified area staging directed by Sister Honora,O.P.
Minn., Cold Spring - St. Boniface High School - LADY OF FATIMA - directed by Sister Michaela, O.S.B.
Minn., Duluth - College of St. Scholastica Playmakers - I REMEMBER MAMA - Feb. 26, 27 and 28 directed by Sister Annella.
Minn., Minneapolis - Academy of Holy Angels Feb. 6 - Thespian Group presented CRY HAVOC to celebrate Thespian 20 year anniversary. Feb. 13 - Juniors produced CONNECTICUT YANKEE - National Drama Week. Director - Sister Charitas.
New Jersey, Union City - Veronica's Veil Guild - 35th season - VERONICA'S VEIL Feb. 26 to April 10 - Sat. and Sun. matinees and evening performances. Produced by Father Benjamin, C.P.
New York, N.Y. - Fordham University Feb. 10, 11, 12 and 13; also Feb. 17, 18, 19 and 20 - ROMEO AND JULIET directed by Albert McCleery. Settings for triple stage presentation designed and executed by Wm. Riva.
New York, N.Y. - St. Jean Baptiste High School - LADY OF FATIMA Feb. 24 and 25.
New York, Rochester - Nazareth Academy Dec. 22 - ONCE IN BETHLEHEM; Feb. 23 and 24 - THE MIKADO presented by The Perosian Choir and Dramatic Classes, Sister M. Clarissa, S.S.J.
Ohio, Canton - Mount Marie Academy PEG O' MY HEART.
Ohio, Cleveland Catholic Theatre, THE CATHEDRAL SQUARE PLAYERS - THE SHOW-OFF - Feb. 18, 19 and 20.
Penna., Dallas - College Misericordia - Nov. 21 - LADY OF FATIMA, directed by Agnes Loughlin.
Penna., Immaculata College - 2 performances of MURDER IN A NUNNERY on Feb. 13, directed by Sister Donatus.
Penna., Phila. - Philopatrian Theatre Guild - Feb. 24, 25 and 26 - 4 Irish Plays: "DOCTOR FROM DUNMORE", "RIDERS TO THE SEA", RISING OF THE MOON" and SPREADING THE NEWS".
Penna., Phila. - St. Joseph College Cap and Bells - Feb. 17, 18 and 19 - THE FRONT PAGE.
Wash., D.C. - Catholic University - GRANDSTAND PLAY - modern comedy by Leo Brady...Feb. 11 - Feb. 26.
Wisc., LaCrosse - Aquinas High School, LADY OF FATIMA - Feb. 6 and 7, directed by Sister Marie Leon & Sister M. Michael.
Wisc., Racine Theatre Guild - THE BARRETTS OF WIMPOLE STREET.
Addenda:
Oregon, Portland - Immaculata Academy, Feb. 23, 24 & 25, directed by Sister M. Edmund, O.P. Male roles played by students from Central Catholic High School. ...Production--JUNIOR MISS.

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NATIONAL CONVENTION

Los Angeles
Immaculate Heart College & Loyola Univ.
June 15 thru 18
1949